

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**of**  
**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the 9th European Development Fund**  
**in the**  
Central African Republic

**THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,  
Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, in particular Articles 72 and 73 thereof,

Having regard to the Internal Agreement of 18 September 2000 on the Financing and Administration of the Community Aid under the Financial Protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, in particular **Articles 24.3.a and 25.1 thereof**<sup>1</sup>, and revised in Luxemburg on 25 June 2005<sup>2</sup>.

Whereas:

- (1) The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has steadily deteriorated since mid 2005 and 200,000 people have been displaced by conflict.
- (2) Some 4,000 people have recently fled conflict in Darfur and taken refuge in North-eastern Central African Republic.
- (3) The nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups (particularly displaced families and their children) is reaching critical levels and the population has reduced access to health care.
- (4) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 15 months.
- (5) In accordance with the objectives set out in Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement it is estimated that an amount of EUR 4,000,000 from the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to populations directly affected by the crisis arising from the outbreaks of fighting.
- (6) The use of the 9th European Development Fund is necessary as all the funds for ACP countries in the general budget are entirely allocated.
- (7) The Commission has informed the EDF Committee, set up by the Internal Agreement with ex-ante information according to the criteria laid down in Article 24.3.a and 24.5 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 4,000,000 from the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund for humanitarian aid operations to assist vulnerable people directly affected by the crisis arising from the outbreaks of fighting in the Central African Republic.
2. In accordance with Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
  - Displaced people, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities are provided with an integrated multisectoral assistance package.

The total amount of the Decision is allocated to this objective.

*Article 2*

1. This Decision shall have a maximum duration of 15 months, starting on 1 July 2007.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 July 2007.
3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account in calculating the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

*Article 3*

1. The Commission **shall** implement the budget by direct centralised management.
2. The actions supported by this Decision will be implemented by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).
3. Taking into account the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. This means that, in case of co-financing, the possible rate of co-financing can go up to 99% if needed.

*Article 4*

The Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



## **Humanitarian Aid Decision**

**F9 (EDF9)**

Title: Assistance to Internally Displaced People and other vulnerable groups in Central African Republic affected by insecurity.

Location of operation: Central African Republic

Amount of Decision: EUR 4,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/CAF/EDF/2007/01000

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### **Explanatory Memorandum**

#### **1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

##### 1.1. - Rationale :

Ten years of civil war, recurrent coups and army mutinies have resulted in the destruction of state institutions and infrastructure, and shattered much of the economy of the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite positive steps towards stability after the elections of 2005, armed conflict has persisted in the north of the country. This has resulted in the displacement of some 200,000 civilians that are in a critical humanitarian situation that requires urgent assistance.

The UNDP Human Development Report of 2006 ranks CAR 172 out of 176 countries, while DG ECHO's<sup>3</sup> Gina scoring puts it in the top 5 most vulnerable countries. Furthermore the regional dynamics together with the failure of democratic consolidation and socio-economic development make the CAR one of the world's most fragile yet unknown countries, and potentially a hot spot threatening peace and security in Central Africa.

CAR is normally self-sufficient in food crops even if much of the population lives at subsistence level. The country is rich in raw materials (timber, diamonds) but insecurity, poor management and its land-locked situation have not allowed the exploitation of these to benefit the population. The informal economy of the CAR is more important than the formal economy for most Central Africans. Erratic postcolonial government has failed to attract

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<sup>3</sup> Directorate-General for humanitarian aid - ECHO  
[ECHO/CAF/EDF/2007/01000](#)

much investment and indeed the lack of local opportunity has caused a significant 'brain drain'.

A few NGOs and church groups have attempted to establish some minimum basic services but the government has not been able to take them over in a sustainable fashion. Large areas of the remote west have never enjoyed any development at all and indeed it is questionable whether they have ever been under the effective control of the government. As such foreign and domestic rebel groups, bandits and even slave hunters have, at varying times, found CAR to be either an easy target or a safe haven and always, naturally, at the expense of the local population.

Despite all these setbacks the population of CAR has, by and large, managed to cope. However in the last 18 months the conjunction and ferocity of all these negative elements have been too much to bear and the coping mechanisms have begun to fail.

The humanitarian situation in the CAR has been exacerbated not only due to the increasing activity of domestic and foreign rebel groups in the northwest and northeast of the country but also due to the consequences of the government and its allies trying to deal with these groups. Fighting between government forces and rebels has led to the destruction of hundreds of homes, often burned by government forces as acts of reprisal against villages suspected of sympathizing with the rebels. Human rights abuses including summary executions of suspected rebel sympathizers, rapes and the recruitment of child soldiers have been recorded.

These actions have created a climate of fear which has led to the displacement of over 200,000 people (the number of IDPs is continuously increasing since January 2006), many of them to the bush and forest, where people have become even more vulnerable to disease and insecurity. Some 48,000 have fled as refugees to neighbouring countries (notably Chad). In their absence the little infrastructure that existed has been damaged or looted. Crop, seed stocks and tools have been lost. Thus, even if security improves sufficiently to allow a return home, there is precious little remaining with which to rebuild a livelihood.

More recently some 4,000 refugees have fled from attacks in Darfur province of Sudan into North eastern CAR in and around the town of Sam-Ouandjia in Vacaga Province.

The insecurity has prevented all but a few, courageous, international NGOs, the ICRC and some church groups from intervening in the north. However, with the sudden expansion of the humanitarian crisis these no longer have the resources or capacity to respond adequately. More partners and more resources are urgently needed if a major crisis is to be averted.

#### 1.2. - Identified needs:

The European Commission (EC) has a delegation in Bangui which constantly monitors the situation in CAR. DG ECHO is also in contact with those partners such as the ICRC, MSF and Coopi who have a permanent presence in the north of the country. Recently a number of international NGOs (such as ACF, AMI, Care and NRC) and the UN agencies have conducted a series of needs assessments in CAR and shared their findings with DG ECHO. Finally DG ECHO has sent its own expert to assess the situation. The needs that are to be met by this Decision have been distilled from all these various sources and the activities programmed in conjunction with the main partners and stakeholders and in particular with the other EC instruments.

- *Protection*

First and foremost the people want a secure environment. The conflict has destroyed many of the traditional and institutional protection mechanisms. In a context where the civilian population is directly affected by the conflict and where severe human rights violations continue to take place, the protection of civilians must be addressed and prioritised. The level of violence against civilians, e.g. repeated attacks by armed groups causing the displacement of population both internally and across the border with Chad, remains the main challenge of the humanitarian intervention in this context.

- *Food security*

Entire harvesting seasons were lost in many regions of the northwest for up to four consecutive years, and agricultural activities have yet been unable to recover. Given the very low levels of commerce, this has disastrous implications for the agricultural production and food security of the local populations. Food security continues to suffer from a drop in crop production, a reduction in breeding (partly caused by the exodus of breeders), and low purchasing power.

Malnutrition has reached worrying levels among children under five in the most conflict-affected areas. A nutritional survey issued by UNICEF in 2006 showed that 30% of children sampled suffer from chronic malnutrition, and 4% suffer from acute severe malnutrition. These figures suggest that unless agricultural production is revitalised, and emergency food aid is also provided until this is achieved, the current lack of food could lead to disaster.

According to WFP, targeted free food distributions for a limited period of time are required for some 70,000 people. However the principal requirements are for the timely provision of seeds and tools and the secure physical access to markets.

- *Shelter and non-food items*

The lack of adequate shelter materials against exposure to cold temperatures at night greatly contributes to the transmission of diseases, particularly upper respiratory tract infections and fatal pneumonias. Eventually the reconstruction of destroyed houses will become a necessity in permanently solving this problem.

Lack of impregnated mosquito nets, water containers and hygiene supplies such as soap, also contribute to increasing levels of morbidity and mortality. In July 2006, a joint United Nations Country Team (UNCT) rapid assessment mission to the northwest showed that shelter and NFIs (in particular soap, blankets and clothing) were among the highest needs among IDPs. An IRC-UK assessment mission recently confirmed these findings.

- *Water and sanitation*

In their displacement people have had to use whatever water was available and often this has not only been scarce but also contaminated with all the obvious consequences for health.

Many villages used to have a water committee that would ensure water sources were protected from animal and human excrement. In their absence many village water sources have become damaged or contaminated making any return that much more difficult.

People need improved access to water and hygiene education in their locations of displacement and eventually assistance with-establishing secure water supplies in the areas of

return. 304 hand pumps were installed in the past by several organisations throughout the northern regions, but these facilities have since been damaged and may have to be rehabilitated.

- *Health*

Health care has never been particularly well developed in CAR. Much has relied on NGOs and the churches. However the conflict has reduced access to the little that there was and as outlined above the displacement has made populations far more vulnerable to disease.

Of late even the emergency services set up by certain NGOs such as mobile clinics have had to be curtailed due to increasing insecurity.

In general, because of the bad living conditions and the material consequences of the conflict, the health status of the population is extremely poor. Data collected by WHO showed that maternal and infant health are particularly threatened by the shortage of means to prevent childhood transmissible diseases (vaccination coverage for such diseases stands at less than 50%), and by the paucity of maternal health programmes. In 2003, maternal mortality stood at 1,355 per 100,000 (compared to 510 in the Republic of Congo, and 590 in Sudan), and infant mortality (those aged below one) stood in 2003 at 132 per thousand, meaning that 17,150 infants die in the CAR every year.

Achieving a fully sustainable and comprehensive health service will take years of development but until then providing health education, vaccination, improved conditions for childbirth and access to treatment for the basic killer diseases (diarrhoea, upper respiratory tract infections and malaria) is an urgent and essential requirement.

- *Education*

The education sector, seriously damaged since 2003, further declined in 2006. Infrastructure and equipment were largely looted or destroyed, and many teachers quit their jobs. In 2005, this had left over 350,000 children without any education, and over 280,000 with precarious education, whereby teachers are often replaced by unprofessional parent-teachers<sup>4</sup>. A total of 117 schools were closed in 2005. An even higher number (estimates are not available) were closed in 2006 due to insecurity. With the displacements of 2006, over 30,000 school-aged children have left their home and are living in the bush with their parents, without any access to education. Part of the obvious danger of such a situation is the increased opportunity it gives for children to be pressed into military service.

The priorities are the reconstruction/rehabilitation of facilities and the reconstitution of the teacher body. Again much of this will require long-term development in conjunction with capacity building at ministry level but in the short term much can be done by the strengthening of surviving local schools through distribution of equipment for classrooms and the provision of temporary schools for IDP children in spontaneous settlements.

- *Coordination*

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<sup>4</sup> CAP: Coordinated Aid Programme – Central African Republic - 2007

Humanitarian organisations in the CAR are few and far between. These limitations add to the challenges in addressing the humanitarian needs. A recent moderate influx of new NGOs has overburdened the government's ability to facilitate their entry and obtaining the agreement for operating in the country may take several months. There is a general need to represent the humanitarian community, with the national and local authorities in order to defend the humanitarian space, as well as to ensure a proper coordination of international humanitarian aid. There is also a need to collect accurate information in order to have up to date knowledge of the problems and the capacities of the potential humanitarian response and to disseminate this in order to ensure programmatic and operational cohesion among all humanitarian organisations.

The UN humanitarian agencies restricted by security regulations have been relatively absent from the conflict zone. This is in the process of being rectified and it is hoped that a strengthened presence will bring added value. Assuring civil-military dialogue between the humanitarian community and government forces and even FOMUC (Force Multinationale en Centrafrique) forces could be an important role for them to play.

## **LRRD**

The current situation in CAR merely exacerbates a long-term failure of sustainable development. The Government of the Central African Republic (GoCAR) and international community are fully aware that the real solutions to the problems of CAR lie not in emergency humanitarian aid but in securing a negotiated peace, better governance and long-term multi-sectored development.

The European Commission fully adheres to this thesis and moreover believes that raising false hopes with a couple of 'quick -fix' superficial interventions may actually do more harm than good to the morale of the people and thus to the stability of the country. As such DG ECHO has attempted to devise its intervention so as to dovetail with those that are planned by DG Dev<sup>5</sup> and the Delegation.

DG ECHO will, as far as possible, focus its activities in areas and sectors already earmarked for future reconstruction and development by the EDF<sup>6</sup> and the GoCAR. It is even hoped that in certain circumstances the same partners will be able to develop their programmes seamlessly from emergency through to development. The EDF has already identified resources for the first phase of their intervention which, all things being equal, should come on line as this Decision comes to a close.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

According to the Humanitarian Community Partnership Team (HCPT) 1 million people are affected by this crisis, i.e. almost 25% of the population. As of February 2007, there are 212,000 IDP victims of clashes between the national army and other armed groups, as well as of increased banditry. There are also some 4,000 new refugees from Darfur in Vacaga province.

This Decision will target approximately 200,000 IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities in the northern provinces. More specifically it will:

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<sup>5</sup> Directorate-General for Development - DEV

<sup>6</sup> EDF: European Development Fund



- Provide shelter , non food items and health care to 4,000 refugees from Sudan.
- Provide appropriate agricultural and non-food items to 30,000 households<sup>7</sup>.
- Provide water and sanitation activities for 40,000 IDPs and returnees and local population in spontaneous settlements (bush) and villages.
- Ensure access to a minimum package of health care for 40,000 people.
- Assist 1,000 vulnerable IDP families to reconstruct their houses.
- Re-establish primary education for 5,000 children
- Provide protection activities to all the civilian population and target combatants for specific dissemination activities.

**Geographical focus:** DG ECHO will target the northern part of the country with a special focus on the prefectures of Ouham Nana Gribizi, and Vacaga (see annex for map) which have been and are still the areas most affected by conflict. However, assistance will be provided to the entire country through cross cutting activities (protection, coordination). The 48,000 refugees in Chad are cared for by UNHCR and partly supported by DG ECHO through the Food Aid Decision (ECHO/-FA/BUD/2007/01000).

#### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

As of this day insecurity is still a problem in northern CAR, with on-going harassment of humanitarian agencies, including, on 11 June 2007 , the killing of an MSF expatriate aid worker by unknown assailants near Paoua. The risk this presents to humanitarian operations is obvious. One must add to this the underlying political instability of a country with a history of violent regime change. Finally the situation in Uganda, DRC, Chad and Sudan has and will continue to have a direct, if unpredictable, effect on CAR. In addition to the insecurity, the climate, the difficult terrain and the lack of communications infrastructure could hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid and even cause delays and increase costs.

Planned linkages between emergency and development (LRRD) could be jeopardised if long-term development actors (WB, DG DEV, etc.) are unable start their programmes in a timely fashion in order to be able to take over from the short-term humanitarian interventions.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:**

### 2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: Assistance is provided to displaced people, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities in the Central African Republic affected by conflict in order to reduce excess mortality and to promote stabilisation and resettlement

Specific objectives:

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<sup>7</sup> Household = 6 people.  
ECHO/CAF/EDF/2007/01000

Displaced people, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities are provided with an integrated multisectoral assistance package.

## 2.2. - Components:

The activities outlined below are proposed in the context of the points made in section 1.2 (*Needs*). Most are linked to actual proposals for operations that are ready to be launched but some may depend on the willingness of partners to commit and the evolution of what is a very dynamic situation.

DG ECHO is already supporting food aid for EUR 1,000,000 that is being implemented by the WFP through the Food Aid Decision (ECHO/-FA/BUD/2007/01000).

In addition to its regular development programme the European Commission contributes to participate in the funding of the FOMUC regional peacekeeping force and the World Bank Multi-Donor ex-combatant Demobilisation programme.

### *a) Food security, Seeds and Tools distribution. Specialised Nutrition programmes.*

At least 6,000 households will be supported by this Decision, through the provision of appropriate agricultural production support such as seeds, tools, outreach services and seed protection resources. Seeds may be provided through seed fairs if appropriate.

Other donors are already supporting therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes but certain partners are evaluating the need for additional programmes, which may be considered by this Decision.

### *b) Non-food Items (Household kits) and Shelter.*

Some IDPs and refugees have been able to share the belongings of their hosts and some have already received some assistance but many still require some basic household items. On an assessed basis 30,000 Kits will be provided. They will include: blankets, cooking utensils, buckets, mosquito nets, soap depending on the assessed needs.

Where temporary shelter is required and local materials are inadequate or lacking, tarpaulins will be provided. In returnee areas it may be required to assist the most vulnerable with the reconstruction of houses. This may consist of tool kits and/or building materials.

### *c) Water and sanitation.*

The objective is to provide 40,000 IDPs, refugee and returnee families improved access to safe water and to basic sanitation facilities as well as promotion of best hygiene and environmental health practises. This may entail:

- The provision temporary substitutive systems (including trucking if necessary)
- The creation of new water sources
- The protection or repair of existing water
- Chlorination
- The distribution of water storage containers
- The construction or repair of latrines
- Mass education/sensitisation campaigns.

*d) Health services.*

The population of targeted returnee areas will be provided with equitable access to a minimum package of basic healthcare, with special emphasis on women and children. This will include: the basic rehabilitation of health centers where necessary; the provision of drugs and equipment and incentives to clinic health staff. Specific support will be provided for pregnant women to accede to antenatal care and assisted delivery services. Specialized care will be offered to victims of sexual violence.

*e) Support to the re-establishment of primary education.*

The primary education of children will be supported by "bringing the school to the children", in the bush, or wherever they have taken shelter, by providing school kits. Where and when appropriate some schools may be rehabilitated and provided with kits. The provision of incentive payments may be provided to teachers.

*f) Logistic support.*

Access will be crucial to the efficient provision of aid. Partners need to be supported with robust vehicles and reliable communications. Limited air support may also be required. Minor road repairs will be essential not only for the delivery of aid but also to re-establish minimum access for beneficiaries to services and markets.

*g) Cross-Cutting Issues.*

All programmes will endeavour to target the most vulnerable populations and in particular women and children.

Protection activities under this Decision will target civilian population through the collection and documentation of allegations of misconduct towards civilians as well as the parties to the conflict through a dialogue aiming to increase awareness of armed forces on the need to protect and respect civilians.

*h) Time Frame.*

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 July 2007.

The activities funded by this operation need to start as soon as possible in order to respond to urgent needs and to take advantage of the current planting season in October.

**3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:**

This Decision will have a maximum duration of fifteen months from 1 July 2007. Humanitarian operations funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period. Expenditure will be eligible from 1 July 2007.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the Decision.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to abrogate and liquidate the convention signed with the implementing humanitarian organisation where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. The procedure established in the DG ECHO Framework Partnership Agreement in this respect will be applied.

#### 4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis

Since 2005 there have been no previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis.

#### 5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in <b>Central African Republic</b> the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	1,000,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland	500,000				
France	1,112,280				
Germany	900,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	2,315,000				
Italy	152,120				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	250,000				
Malta					
Netherlands	1,628,100				
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	500,000				
Sweden	1,353,035				
United kingdom					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,710,535</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Grand total</b>	<b>9,710,535</b>		

Dated : 31 May 2007

(\*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.ec.europa.eu>

Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

#### 6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 4,000,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>Assistance is provided to displaced people, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities in the Central African Republic affected by conflict, in order to reduce excess mortality and to promote stabilisation and resettlement</i>				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>8</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: Displaced people, refugees returnees and vulnerable host communities are provided with an integrated multisectoral assistance package	4,000,000	Central African Republic with special focus on the northern part of the country	Provision of food and non-food items, seeds and tools, water and sanitation, health, shelter assistance, primary education, protection, logistic support, coordination	- ACF-F - A.M.I. - CARE-UK - CARITAS-F - COOPI - FAO - HI - ICRC-CICR - IMC-UK - IRC-UK - MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND - MERLIN - MSF-B - MSF-ESP - MSF-NL - NRC HANDELSBLAD - OCHA - OXFAM GB - P U - SOLIDARITES - TRIANGLE - UNICEF - WFP-PAM - WVUK
<b>TOTAL:</b>	4,000,000			

<sup>8</sup> ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), AIDE MEDICALE INTERNATIONALE, (FR), ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN (NLD), CARE INTERNATIONAL DEUTSCHLAND E.V. (DEU), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V. (DEU), HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), International Rescue Committee UK, MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (GBR), MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND (GBR), NRC HANDELSBLAD, OXFAM (GB), PREMIERE URGENCE, (FR), SOLIDARITES, (FR), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WORLD VISION - UK

## **7 - Evaluation**

Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid operations financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent operations." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm).

## **8 – Management issues**

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) and by United Nations agencies based on the EC/UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. These Framework agreements define the criteria for attributing grant agreements and financing agreements in accordance with Article 90 of the Implementing Rules and may be found at [http://europa.eu/comm/echo/partners/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm).

Individual grants are awarded on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness and experience, and results of previous interventions.

